

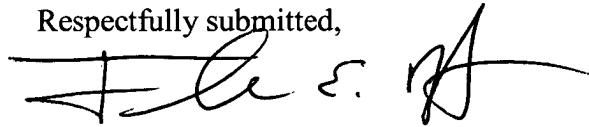
Applicants submit that the complete examination would be handled most expeditiously by treating all of the pending claims as a single entity. As MPEP 803 directs, “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not shown that a search and examination of the entire application would cause a serious burden. Rather, a serious burden would arise if the application were restricted.

No serious burden is created for the Examiner by running a simultaneous computerized search of the primer set and kit comprising a primer set of Group I and the methods comprising steps of DNA amplification of Group II, for example. The single search may be run in conjunction with databases such as those available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih>. As such, a search could readily be performed for at least these two Groups without any undue burden on the Examiner.

Although Applicant traverses the restriction requirement for the reasons set forth above, Applicant has provisionally elected the invention identified as the primer set and kit comprising a primer set of Group I, for further prosecution. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that “[w]here applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all of the limitation of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04.” Office Action at page 3.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (202) 942-5085.

Respectfully submitted,



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